Reviving Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.

2114. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a fresh proposal for revival of the sick Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY) : (a) to (d) SAIL has submitted a revival proposal amounting to Rs. 1081 crore for IISCO to Government which includes funds for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and capital investments at Burnpur Works and its mines and collieries, besides provisions for meeting its cash losses. No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Working Conditions of Employees in NSFs

2115. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Tribune on November 6, 2001 regarding improving the working conditions of Joint Secretaries/Asstt. Secretaries, associated with various National Sports Federations;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the employees of National Sports Federations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what remedial steps Government propose to take to improve the service conditions of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) The News item which

appeared in the Tribune on November 6, 2001 refers to the demand of Joint Secretary/Assistant Secretaries associated with various National Sports Federations for benefits like House Rent Allowance (HRA), City Compensatory Allowance (CCA), Transport Allowance, LTC, GPF, PPF and promotional benefits which are generally admissible to Government employees other than the Basic Pay & Dearness Allowance. The Govt. has received several representations from the employees of National Sports Federations in which they have demanded benefits which are admissible to all Government employees.

(c) The National Sports Federations are autonomous organizations engaged in promotion of Sports. They are being provided assistance by the Government for holding of National Championships, purchase of sports equpment and partcipation of Indian teams in International sports events. The Federations are also reimbursed the salary of the paid Assistant Secretaries/Joint Secretary in the pay scale of Rs. 5500—9000 and Rs. 6500—10500 plus dearness allowance. No other allowance namely, house rent allowance, city compensatory allowance, medical allowance, LTC etc. are admissible to Assistant Secretaries/Joint Secretary as per the existing Government guidelines. Since they are employees of autonomous organizations, the terms and conditions of employment are to be determined by their employers and it may not be logical for them to claim pay and allowances at par with Government employees. Due to budgetary constraints, it is also not possible for the Government to extend any additional benefits as requested in their representation. However, the National Sports Federations are at liberty to consider extending these benefits to their Assistant Secretaries/ Joint Secretary from their own resources.

Supply of Non-Banned and Herbal Medicines by SAI

2116. SHRI BRATIN SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether before participation in any major international competition the Sports Authority of India had been supplying Ayurvedic medicines to athletes to boost their performance;

(b) whether the positive test found in the weight lifter is because of non-banned substances and herbal medicines;

(c) if so, what are the facts of the case; and

(d) the steps being taken by SAI to resolve the issue?